GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2584
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
QUALITY CHECK OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINES
Singh Shri Uday;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to check the quality etc. , of the traditional medicines ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has not given any accreditation to several Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines which are freely available in the markets ;

(d) whether the Government with a view to evaluate, standardized and improve the quality of traditional herbal medicines in the country has constituted a task force comprising Scientists, Industry and NGOs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the task force has recommended separate standards for regulating traditional medicines ; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Section 33 (I) and (J) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 provides for punishment for adulterated and spurious Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs.Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani drugs have been notified under Section 33(N) of the Act for compliance by manufacturing unit. Enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 with reference to Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani drugs is the responsibility of the State Government, State Drug Controller and State Drug Licensing Authority appointed by them.

(c) to (g): Under Section 33 (C) and Section 33(D) respectively of the Act, Central Government has constituted the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board and Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory board and Ayurveda,Siddha and Unani Drigs Consultative Committee for the purpose of securing uniformity in respect of standards and quality control of Ayurveda,Siddha and Unani drugs through out India. Ayurveda/Siddha and Unani Pharmacopoeia Committees have also been constituted for laying down standards for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines. These Committees have brought out official Formularies of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines in addition to publication of Ayurveda and Unani Pharmacopoeias containing quality standard of 325 and 45 single drugs respectively.

Ayurveda,Siddha and Unani medicines both of classical nature as well as Patent and Proprietory medicines are licensed by the State Drug Licensing Authorities. Recently Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have constituted a committee of expert to formulate guidelines for the State Drug Licensing Authorities for licensing of Patent and Proprietary AYUSH medicines.